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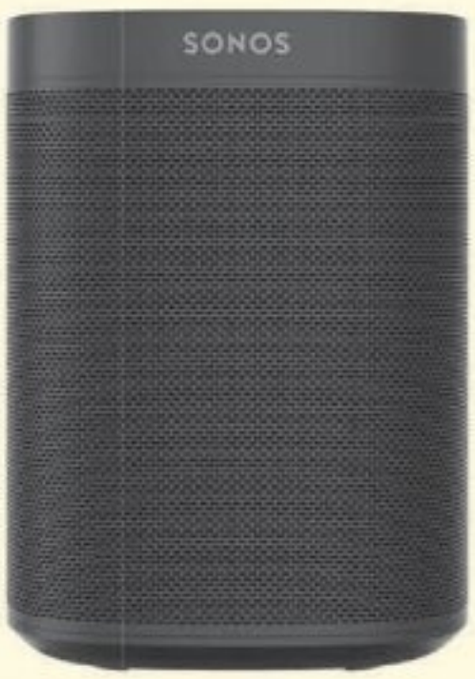

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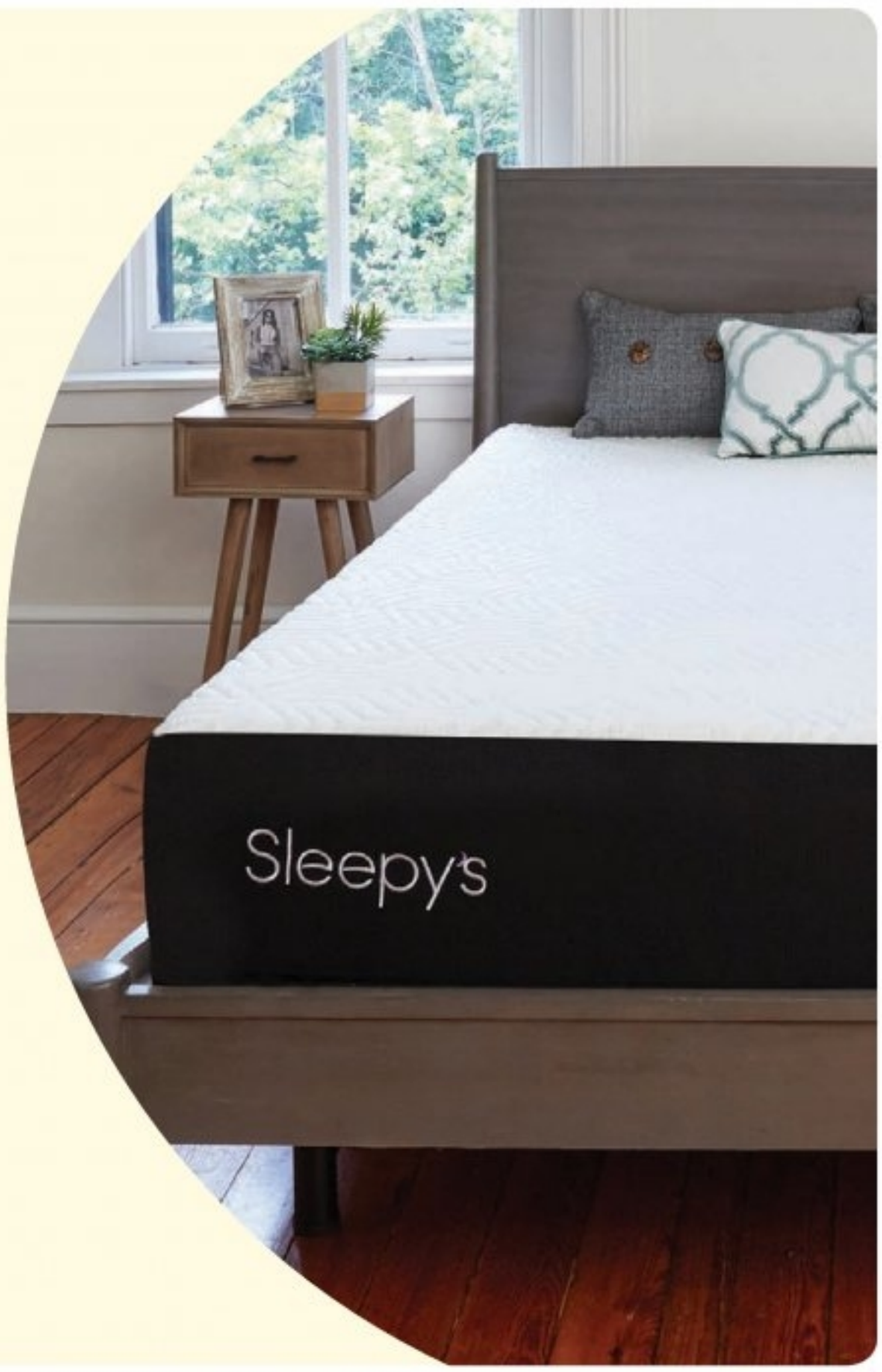

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CITY OF THANKFUL FANS

It's never been a better time to be a Philly sports lover. What we're thankful for, inside. 21

Drinksgiving: The booze holiday. 11

Ex-Drexel neurologist dodges jail time. 6

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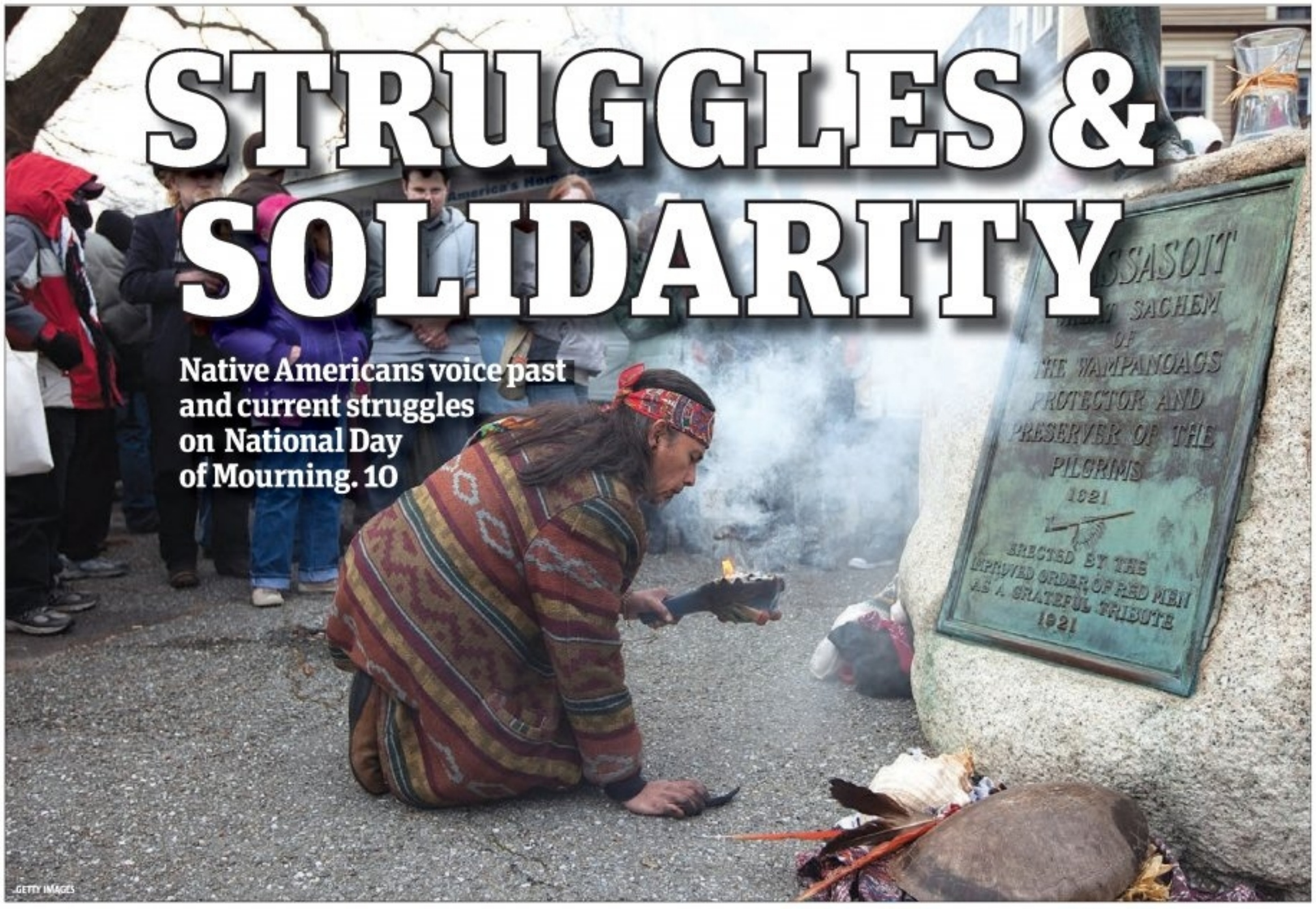
STRUGGLES & SOLIDARITY

Native Americans voice past and current struggles on National Day of Mourning. 10



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SAM NEWHOUSE, REPORTER

Excited for Thanksgiving? What about hearing your college student cousin's meal-time pontifications about the troubling history of the holiday? Like it or not, we all have to grapple with the heritage of Thanksgiving. Metro explores what Thanksgiving means in 2017, inside and at **MetroPhilly.us.**

MUGABE RESIGNS, ENDING FOUR DECADES OF RULE

Robert Mugabe resigned as Zimbabwe's president on Tuesday, a week after the army and his former political allies moved to end four decades of rule by a man once feted as an independence hero who became feared as a despot. His former vice president, Emmerson Mnangagwa, whose sacking this month prompted the military takeover that forced Mugabe out, will be sworn in as president on Wednesday or Thursday, Patrick Chinamasa, legal secretary of the ruling ZANU-PF party, told Reuters. The 93-year-old Mugabe had clung on for a week after an army takeover, with ZANU-PF urging him to go. He finally resigned moments after parliament began an impeachment process seen as the only legal way to force him out. Mugabe, who has been confined to his Harare residence, did not appear.

FCC CHIEF PLANS TO DITCH 'NET NEUTRALITY' RULES

2 The head of the Federal Communications Commission unveiled plans to repeal landmark rules that prohibited internet service providers from impeding consumer access to web content in a move that promises to recast the digital landscape. FCC chief Ajit Pai, a Republican appointed by President Donald Trump, said the commission will vote at a Dec. 14 on his plan to rescind the so-called net neutrality rules championed by former President Obama that treated internet service providers like public utilities. The rules barred broadband providers from blocking or slowing down access to content or charging consumers more for certain content. They were intended to ensure a free and open internet, give consumers equal access to web content and prevent broadband service providers from favoring their own content.

5 THINGS YOU NEED TO KNOW

GETTY IMAGES

PRESIDENTIAL PARDON

3 President Donald Trump, first lady Melania Trump, their son Barron, National Turkey Federation Chairman Carl Wittenburg and his family and members of the Draper County, Minnesota, 4-H chapter pose for photographs after Trump pardoned, Drumstick, the National Thanksgiving Turkey in the Rose Garden at the White House on Tuesday. Following the presidential pardon, the 40-pound White Holland breed, which was raised by Wittenburg in Minnesota, will then reside at his new home, Gobbler's Rest, at Virginia Tech.

IRANIAN CHARGED IN 'GAME OF THRONES' HACK

4 U.S. prosecutors have charged an Iranian national with hacking into HBO and stealing episodes and plot summaries for unaired programs including "Game of Thrones," then threatening to release the data unless he was paid $6 million. Behzad Mesri, also known as "Skote Vahshat," was charged with the hack in a sealed indictment by the U.S. Attorney's office in Manhattan. Acting U.S. Attorney Joon Kim said at a news conference that Mesri was in Iran. He said Mesri would face consequences even though U.S. authorities could not immediately arrest him. "He will never be able to travel outside of Iran without fear of being arrested and brought here," Kim said. Kim described Mesri as an "experienced and sophisticated hacker who has been wreaking havoc on computer systems around the world for some time."

TRUMP DEFENDS SENATE CANDIDATE MOORE

5 President Donald Trump defended embattled U.S. Senate candidate Roy Moore on Tuesday, saying the Alabama Republican had denied allegations of sexual misconduct and emphasizing that he did not want Moore's Democratic opponent to win. Trump has previously said that Moore should step aside if the allegations were true. Trump, speaking to reporters at the White House before leaving Washington for Florida, left open the possibility of campaigning for Moore, saying he would make an announcement on that next week. "Roy Moore denies it, he totally denies it," Trump said. Trump's position is a break from that of other national Republicans. Republican U.S. Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell and other prominent lawmakers have pressed Moore to quit the race.

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As we enter the season of giving, Metro asks that you donate to Tony's Metro Magic annual holiday toy drive to help underprivileged children in your community. You can donate by visiting metro.us/magic, clicking on the toy wish-list link of your choice, and ordering via a secure payment system. Toys will then be distributed to local children in need.

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What does Thanksgiving mean to us now?

Even as Americans gear up for the popular nonreligious holiday, its troubled history continues to raise questions.

MICHAEL BUTLER
@MetroPhilly
letters@metro.us

Thanksgiving is the fourth Thursday in November every year, and for most Americans, it means two things: delicious food and reconnecting with family and friends. But Thanksgiving also has a complicated history and doesn't resonate with people of all ethnic backgrounds.

Many school textbooks discuss a peaceful meeting between Native Americans and European settlers that eventually led to a celebratory feast shared by the two groups, which we now know as Thanksgiving.

Scholars agree that the two groups did come in contact, but whether or not it was peaceful is a point of controversy. Is Thanksgiving an annual celebration of cultural understanding, or an annual reminder of the brutality European settlers inflicted upon inhabitants of the New World?

Timothy Welbeck, a lawyer and professor in Temple University's African-American Studies Department, has sentimental connections to Thanksgiving but is still aware of the holiday's implications.

"Thanksgiving holds special significance for my family; my parents met on Thanksgiving in 1977, and my son was born on Thanksgiving 34 years later," he said. "With that said, we are readily aware of the problematic nature of the holiday's origins."

As someone well-versed in the struggles African slaves faced at the hands of European colonists when they were forced to the Americas against their will, Welbeck is careful in explaining the true origins of Thanksgiving.

Mythologizing paintings like Jean Leon Gerome Ferris' "The First Thanksgiving, 1621" are an almost offensive juxtaposition with the history of the Native American genocide. WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

"Few moments in American history are mythologized like the Pilgrims' interaction with the Wampanoags has been," he said. "While children are taught in schools that the first Thanksgiving originated with a feast the Pilgrims sponsored to thank the Wampanoags for teaching them to survive the winter, history simply reveals that account inaccurate and woefully lacking in context."

Welbeck said he addresses that disconnect by speaking openly about the darker side of the holiday's history, while utilizing the positive aspects of the tradition.

"What actually transpired led to European colonization of the Wampanoags and their ancestral land. My wife and I teach my children that painful truth," he said. "What we now endeavor to do with our gatherings with extended family is reflect on the reasons we have to give thanks, while also acknowledging the troubled history associated with the holiday. We consider that a means in which to preserve the redeemable aspects of Thanksgiving."

Whether you have European, African or Native American roots, it's important to celebrate diversity and cultural understanding on holidays like Thanksgiving. America is still the world's most famous melting pot, and it's ultimately our different customs and traditions that make our country the unique cultural experience it is. Whether you're thankful to be spending time with family or for a warm meal and home in which to enjoy it, remember to also give thanks for the sacrifices your ancestors made for you to be here today.

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Victim Sara Hicks, 31, said she was disappointed Dr. Ricardo Cruciani would face no jail time. SAM NEWHOUSE

Ex-Drexel neurologist dodges jail time, pleads guilty to sexual misconduct

Ricardo Cruciani agreed to relinquish his medical license permanently.

SAM NEWHOUSE
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sam.newhouse@metro.us

A disgraced neurologist accused of sexual misconduct by female patients pleaded guilty to misdemeanor charges Wednesday and agreed to never practice medicine again under a deal in which he will face no jail time.

Dr. Ricardo Cruciani, 63, pleaded guilty to misdemeanor indecent assault during his scheduled preliminary hearing Tuesday and agreed to seven years' registration as a sex offender and 15 years on the Megan's Law registry, and he agreed to relinquish his medical license and to never practice medicine again.

Victim Sara Hicks, 31, of Trenton, said outside court that she was shocked the doctor would face no jail time, despite pleading guilty to sexual misconduct with seven women.

"I really thought in this time of Weinstein and these other things there would be something," Hicks said outside of court. "To see nothing — it's difficult."

Since the original charges were filed, additional women have come forward, with an estimated 17 women now identified as having reported sexual misconduct while Cruciani worked at Drexel, Capital Health in New Jersey and Beth Israel in New York City.

"We don't even know how many people are affected," Hicks said.

Hicks entered treatment for her medical issues with Cruciani in 2012 at Capital Health and followed him to Philly continue receiving treatment from him at Drexel.

At first she dismissed his habit of excessive hugging and over-intimacy as a possible cultural difference, she said. But things got worse.

"The day I told him I was pregnant was the day it started," Hicks said.

Hicks said despite feeling uncomfortable with the doctor touching her body, she told herself that because she had PTSD from past incidents, "I was being too sensitive, and downplayed it."

Hicks at one point told her mother she would not go back because she was not comfortable with the doctor; but due to her pregnancy, she was told by another doctor to not change doctors.

Going off her medicine could have caused a seizure. "With the opioid crisis, you don't want to jump from doctor to doctor, because you'll be seen as seeking medication," she said.

Even when she brought her sister to the next appointment, the doctor continued to be "handsy," she said.

Hicks said she was in treatment with Cruciani at Drexel when the doctor suddenly became unavailable on a "family emergency," and that she was shocked when she learned that the doctor was accused of sexual misconduct against multiple women.

She said due to her past experiences, she decided to come forward.

"In the past nothing's been done," she said. "Something happened at college and my college told me, 'Oh it was a misunderstanding,' and it's always downplayed," she said. "This wasn't some drunk frat boy, this was a well-respected doctor, and the fact that he would do something to so many people for so many years — something needed to be said and done."

Hicks is one of the women represented by Philly attorney Jeff Fritz, who is investigating possible litigation against the hospitals that employed Cruciani.

Beth Israel, where the doctor worked until 2014, shut down in 2016 and was absorbed into Mount Sinai Hospital, has declined to comment on the case. Capital, where he worked from 2014 to 2015, has said no complaints were received about Cruciani. Drexel, where he worked from 2016 to 2017, said his background check during the hiring process "did not reveal any improper or illegal conduct."

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Looking back at the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade through the years

The annual event is one of the largest parades in the country.

LENYON WHITAKER
@MetroPhilly
letters@metro.us

The Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade takes place every year in the heart of New York City and marches more than 2 miles from 77th Street and Central Park West, ending at Macy's Herald Square located at 34th Street and Sixth Avenue. The parade celebrates the official start of the Christmas season.

The New York City Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade is considered to be the largest parade in the world, drawing over 3 million attendees and over 50 million watching the broadcast on TV or online. The parade has become a fun-filled family event and a Thanksgiving Day tradition.

Each year, Macy's introduces new floats and larger-than-life balloons to the parade while keeping the classics such as Ronald McDonald, Spiderman and various Sesame Street characters.

The Macy's parade began in 1924 but as you can imagine, it wasn't as big of a spectacle as it has become today. In the early 1920s, the official name of the parade was the "Macy's Christmas Parade."

The first parade was held to celebrate the grand opening of the Macy's flagship location at Herald Square. The celebrate the opening of the "World's Largest Store," the company decided to have a parade on Thanksgiving morning to honor the special occasion.

The main attractions of the first Macy's parade were animals borrowed from the Central Park Zoo. Elephants wearing large "Macy's" banners walked the parade route during the parade. It wasn't until 1928 that large helium balloons were used.

Despite the effects of the Great Depression, the Macy's Thanksgiving Day parade grew larger and larger. By the early 1930s, about 1 million people were attending the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade.

As the years went on, the parade grew in size and popularity featuring more floats, balloons, marching bands and performances each year.

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The Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade in New York City is considered to be the largest parade in the world, drawing over 3 million attendees and over 50 million watching the broadcast on TV or online. ALL PHOTOS GETTY IMAGES

Chicken Little floats down Broadway during the 2004 Macy's Parade.

As Popeye (who was followed by Santa Claus) helps bring Macy's Thanksgiving Day parade to close, four children look on.

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Native Americans voice past and current struggles on National Day of Mourning

The annual tradition is held annually in Plymouth, Massachusetts, with natives and non-natives coming from all over to stand in solidarity with indigenous people.

KRISTIN TOUSSAINT
@kristindakota
kristin.toussaint@metro.us

The story of Thanksgiving is often presented as a heartwarming, welcoming tale in which Pilgrims and Native Americans came together to share crops, bonding over the feast.

But that story leaves out the struggles and horrors natives faced at the hands of those colonists, their descendants argue. That's why every year, Native Americans and allies gather at Cole's Hill, above Plymouth Rock where those Pilgrims first landed, for the National Day of Mourning.

An annual tradition since 1970, the National Day of Mourning is a time for Native American voices to truly be heard about both their ancestors' true histories and their community's current struggles, which are far too often silenced.

"Indigenous people give thanks all the time. We're not against giving thanks, and we're not against people having meals with their families," said Mahtowin Munro, co-leader of the United American Indians of New England (UAINE), which organizes the day.

"The real underlying issue is this idea that the Pilgrims were so wonderful and amazing, that they came over and native people were happy to see them, and they all sat down together and live happily ever after," she continued. "And that then, native people just faded away."

A statue of Massasoit, Sachem, or leader, of the Wampanoags, stands on a hill overlooking Plymouth Harbor. GETTY IMAGES

While Native Americans are represented in our depictions of Thanksgiving, they're barely visible the rest of the year. While the Day of Mourning does address that buried history, it also serves as a time to talk about current issues indigenous people face.

Last year, a focus of the day was in solidarity with the water protectors at Standing Rock. This year, the 48th Day of Mourning, UAINE wanted to give attention to those in Mexico, Puerto Rico and throughout the Caribbean who are still rebuilding their lives after devastating earthquakes and hurricanes.

"One of the things raised every year is that we didn't cross the border, the border crossed us. ...There were very severe earthquakes in Mexico, not only in Mexico City, but other areas with large indigenous populations, and we want to express solidarity for those people," Mahtowin said.

"With Puerto Rico and the Caribbean, that is the part of the world where [Christopher] Columbus and colonialism hit first," she added. "Because we've been colonized as a result of Europeans coming here, with our land taken from us, we certainly feel strong solidarity with them."

National Day of Mourning begins with an opening ceremony and blessing, followed by speeches and then a march down to Plymouth Rock and through the town, and the day ends with a potluck.

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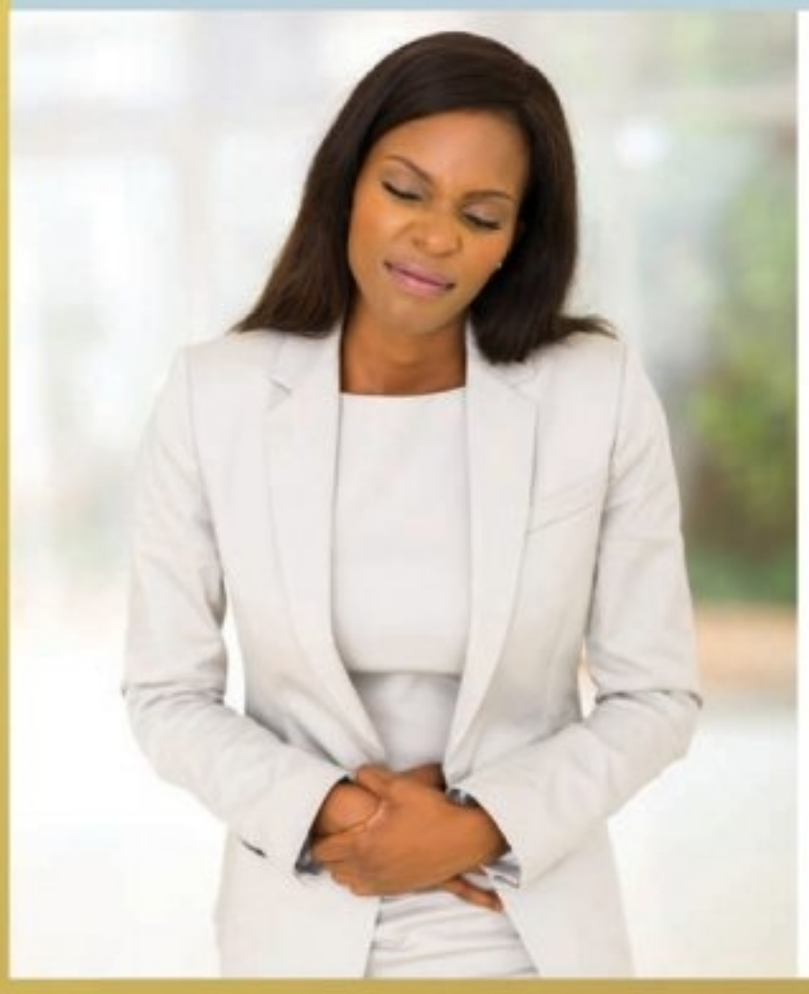

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Drinksgiving: The booze holiday you didn't know you observed

Americans will be throwing back their favorite alcoholic beverages this Drinksgiving. GETTY IMAGES

Some call it Drinksgiving, others call it Blackout Wednesday, but anti-binge-drinking advocates seem to agree: It's bad for our safety.

Drinksgiving happens on the night before Thanksgiving, when revelers return to their hometowns to kick off the holiday weekend with family and friends.

While it's no secret that the holiday season is known for binge drinking — high-risk drinking and DUI-related injuries skyrocket by an average of 33 percent in the five weeks between Thanksgiving and New Year's Eve — Blackout Wednesday leads the pack.

In some cities, Drinksgiving is the day of the year that sees the most DUIs and hospitalizations due to alcohol consumption. According to MADD, more people are killed during the Thanksgiving holiday than the Christmas holiday.

But it's not all bad news, especially for the service industry.

Restaurant management platform Upserve reported a 23 percent increase in restaurant sales on Drinksgiving, mainly booze. Beer sales increased 270 percent, liquor sales grew by 114 percent and food orders went up 28 percent.

The pre-Thanksgiving holiday started gaining popularity around 2012, when bars and liquor stores started noticing record alcohol sales for that one day.

Liquor-delivery app Drizly recently conducted a survey of its customers' drinking habits on the holidays and found that wine is the most popular Thanksgiving drink, with 63 percent of people opting for it. Twenty percent of people reach for beer, with the remaining customers choosing mixed liquor drinks.

The survey found that most people will consume between three to five alcoholic drinks on Thanksgiving Day, with 8 percent of drinkers losing count. MORGAN ROUSSEAU

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Meet the new Nola Darling

We chat with DeWanda Wise, who stars in Netflix's original series adaptation of Spike Lee's classic "She's Gotta Have It."

KATE MOONEY
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Today's Nola Darling (DeWanda Wise) puts her career as an artist before her trio of boyfriends. Painting by Brooklyn artist Tatyana Fazlalizadeh. NETFLIX

The new Nola Darling has bigger things to worry about than appeasing her suitors.

In the Netflix modernization of Spike Lee's "She's Gotta Have It," a 10-part series directed by Lee, the year is 2016. Our girl still juggles dates with Greer, Mars and Jamie — basically a ho-tation, as Issa Rae dubs her rotating cast of hookups on "Insecure" — but she's also a talented artist, striving to make it and make her rent. (She can barely afford her Fort Greene one-bedroom, even though she pays an old-school rate because her godmother owns the building.)

"We brought her career to the forefront, which was very important because it calls into question what the 'it' is in 'She's Gotta Have It,'" says newcomer DeWanda Wise ("Shots Fired"), who stars as Nola.

GETTY IMAGES

The new telling also gives Nola close female friendships, which she takes more seriously than her paramours. And while 1986 Nola was definitely a feminist, today she engages with the issues head-on, whether it's calling out the misogynistic attitudes of her lovers, or, post-sexual assault, launching a street-art campaign akin to Brooklyn artist Tatyana Fazlalizadeh's "Stop Telling Women to Smile" series.

Ahead of the series' Thanksgiving Day premiere, we spoke with Wise about dating Nola Darling-style and why she won't list her age on her IMDB profile.

Are the new Greer, Mars and Jamie more woke?
[Laughs] There's nothing worse than an a—hole parading around as a nice guy. We're definitely exploring making these men that you wouldn't immediately be like, "Why are you with them, they're a—holes?" but also toeing that line of "Some things have changed, but a lot has remained the same" when it comes to how men feel ownership of women.

How does your experience dating compare to Nola's?
I was definitely a heartbreaker. What I love about Nola and what I think is different about her approach is that she's trying to be transparent and open about it, which is really hard.

Your age isn't listed on your IMDB page. Is that intentional?
Oh, yeah. Last year, I did three shows. The first project I worked on, Shameeka was 34. The second, Clara is 20. Nola turns 27. I'm gonna play a 60-year-old next, it's gonna be great. [Laughs]

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Prepare for the 'Darkest Hour,' both for Winston Churchill and the fate of Europe

"Here's to not buggering it up!" — W.C.

GREGORY WAKEMAN
@MetroPhilly
gregory.wakeman@metro.us

Gary Oldman as Britain's greatest prime minister. FOCUS FEATURES

We may feel as though we live in the most dramatic period of political history, but about 80 years ago the end of the world seemed nigh (well, at least a tad more "nigh" than "now"). No wonder dozens of movies have been made about the tensions at the time WWII was on Britain's doorstep, most recently "Dunkirk" and "The King's Speech." This time, however, we have the chance to focus on the formidable man at the helm — Winston Churchill.

The infamous British prime minister (played in "Darkest Hour" by Gary Oldman), took the chair in May 1940 and is remembered a little bit too fondly by modern day right-wingers, according to director Joe Wright. In this film, he tries to save Churchill from that legacy and portray him more as a pragmatist (who still had a few really bad ideas and prejudices).

"If we hadn't won ... if Hitler had turned right instead of left and wiped out the British forces on the beach of Dunkirk, and invaded, we would be vilifying Churchill for not having explored a possible peace process," says Wright on Churchill's luck. "History has vindicated Churchill, and he's regarded as a demigod because Britain actually went on to win the war. But I wanted audiences to meet the guy and try to see who the crazy, idiosyncratic, enigma really was."

GETTY IMAGES

Churchill's bravery during this period, when Britain was alone in Europe and under siege from the Nazis, makes for some riveting cinematography. "The point about Churchill, and where he was right, however it turned out, was that he stood up to and confronted fascism. So he has the moral authority on his side, and that can't be denied."

Time to erect a few more statues and throw him on the money, alongside the queen? Not quite.

"Churchill got a lot of things wrong," Wright says. "He had been in Parliament for a very long time, and during the course of that career he made some almighty blunders, including his position on women's suffrage, Indian independence and his catastrophic record in World War I (especially when he invaded the Dardanelles). But what we remember him for is the thing he got most right, which was his resistance to the wave of hate, intolerance, bigotry and fascism. And I think that helps to give 'Darkest Hour' an edge today."

"Darkest Hour" is out in select cinemas now, with a larger release in December.

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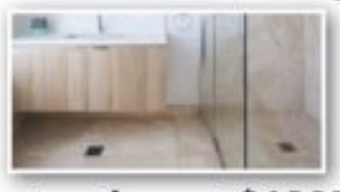

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Miguel and his ancestors in the spirit world. ALL PHOTOS PIXAR

'Coco' breaks down the border wall with a holiday story about family

Pixar's focus on cultural sensitivity helps create an inclusive movie for everyone.

GREGORY WAKEMAN
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gregory.wakeman@metro.us

"We may have our differences, but nothing's more important than family," says Miguel, the star of the latest Pixar film that follows the young boy's journey to the world of his ancestors on Mexico's Day of the Dead, or Día de Muertos.

And while director Lee Unkrich (who brought us two "Toy Story" movies, as well as "Monster's, Inc." and "Finding Nemo") started pitching the idea for "Coco" six years ago, the relations between the U.S. and Mexico have certainly gone south. So it was vitally important to approach the topic carefully. "Doing a 'Hollywoodized' version of 'Coco' would have been the biggest mistake that we could have made," he says. "I knew I had this enormous responsibility to come up with a story that would be culturally accurate and respectful and avoid cliché and stereotypes. That was very important from the very beginning."

How did Unkrich accomplish that? "We knew we wanted an entirely Latino cast," he shares, "and we employed a team of cultural advisers to be involved in the making of the film."

The latter was a particularly big step for Pixar, a company that's known to be very insular. "This was unprecedented for us at the studio," says

Miguel dreams of following in the footsteps of his Great-Great Grandfather and becoming a famous musician.

Unkrich. "We'd never let people into our inner fold and let them be part of the making of a film."

Those of us unacquainted with the Day of the Dead holiday may find it morbid at first glance, and focus on the macabre elements of the circle of life, but Unkrich doesn't feel that way. "There was something interesting to me about the juxtaposition of skeletons with bright festive colors or celebration. And I learned the meaning behind the holiday, what it's all about, and how central family is to it. It's ultimately a celebration — not of death, but life — about remembering our loved ones and making sure their stories are passed along."

To do so on the big screen, Pixar had to create this otherworldly spirit universe for Miguel to explore.

"Our Land of the Dead was inspired by real places that we visited; real cities, real color, design and architecture," Unkrich says. "We wanted it to be fantastical but at the same time recognizable and relatable. We imagined it was a world that was always under construction (because people are always dying) and with no safety codes, because skeletons don't need them! It was fun to find the guiding principles behind coming up with the look of the world."

Visually rich, this feel-good film will also leave you hungry if you're not taking it in just after Thursday's turkey; Día de Muertos is just as food-focused as Thanksgiving!

"Coco" is in select cinemas now.

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This comedy show offers free admission if you bring a parking ticket

Take that, PPA.

MIKE FENN
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No one enjoys getting parking tickets. They are costly reminders of just how confusing parking signage in Philadelphia can be. A new monthly comedy show, however, hopes to help ease the pain of parking tickets—by using them as admission.

The comedy showcase "No Parking" had its debut in October at Bourbon and Branch in Northern Liberties. In addition to a lineup of excellent local Philly comedians, the show also features small doses of sketch, which weave continuous comedy throughout the show, which returns on Nov. 22.

But perhaps the most unique asset of "No Parking" is its admission policy. Anyone who receives a parking ticket in the city during the week of the show receives free admission. Otherwise, the show is just $5.

"We've all messed up and gotten tickets from the PPA before, and we wanted people to benefit from their parking tickets," co-founder Marissa Both says. "We figured the best way to accomplish that is to turn parking tickets into tickets, and then laugh about it."

For local comedians, whose acts at clubs and bars throughout the city happen at all hours of the night, parking tickets are a common problem.

"The worst ticket I ever received was completely my own fault," Erin Dohony, who will be co-hosting the November show, admits. "I once tried to edit the time stamp on a three-hour parking pass that you put on your dashboard (I took a pen and changed a six to an eight to try and get an extra two hours) and found that the PPA will not only write you a $100+ ticket, they will tow your car for good measure."

Indeed, one audience member who was nabbed by the PPA that week received free admission. Both hopes to see that number rise.

"We're really hoping that the PPA has been extra ruthless to Philly's comedy fans," Both says.

With Bourbon and Branch's pristine location on the busy—and metered—stretch of Second Street in Northern Liberties, this should not be a problem.

"No Parking" was co-founded by the members of local comedy production team Laughs on Philly. In addition to Both and Donohy, Laughs on Philly consists of Alejandro Morales, Alex Grubard, Bryan G. Yanez, Edward Josephus Hanson, Eddie Finn, Joseph Dougherty, Reid Benditt, and Ronald Metellus. Each month, the show will feature a new pair of hosts as a way to spotlight the comedic talent of every member of the Laughs on Philly team. For the Nov. 22 show, Dohony and Metellus will assume hosting duties. Both and Morales, longtime Laughs on Philly producers, hosted the October debut show.

Alongside the Laughs on Philly comedians, November audiences will also be treated to stand-up from the likes of Anthony Moore, Chanel Ali, Mike Brooks, Carly Kane and Matt Monroe.

Laughs on Philly co-producers Alejandro Morales and Marissa Both take the stage at the debut "No Parking" comedy show. EDDIE FINN

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Tame your beast at the feast

home

Tips from dog trainer Annie Grossman on how to make your dog a gracious guest this Thanksgiving.

KATE MOONEY
@yatinbrooklyn
kate.mooney@metro.us

Holidays, in their purest form, are about spending time with loved ones — family, friends, and, if you're a pet owner, your furry dependents. But large gatherings can prove difficult for dogs, who get overly excited by all the new people and, during Thanksgiving especially, the smells of so many tasty eats. (Honestly, same.)

There are steps you can take to keep your pup calm and comfortable during the holiday, though, as opposed to barking like crazy as each guest arrives or obsessively begging for table turkey scraps. Dog trainer Annie Grossman, founder of School for the Dogs in Manhattan, gives us practical tips for taming your beast at the feast.

Keep them busy with "work-to-eat toys"

Grossman is a fan of what she calls "work-to-eat toys," products like Kongs, Toppls, slow food bowls or Buster mazes, which conceal treats your dog has to dig out, or contain obstacles it has to navigate to get to the food. (You can even make your own, Grossman suggests: Fill an empty ice cube tray with kibble, or put food inside two plastic cups and fit them together.)

Giving your dog these tasty toys during the Thanksgiving meal will keep her entertained and less likely to badger guests at the table for handouts. As a break from the same tired dry food, fill the toys with Thanksgiving scraps, which contain plenty of dog-friendly eats like turkey, yams, potatoes, and string beans. As a bonus, turkey contains tryptophan, which has a sedating effect on dogs as well as humans.

Make the floor the focus

Whether you're hosting the meal or you're a guest at someone's house, establish a designated place for your dog, be it a crate, dog bed or a towel on the floor, to keep them from overwhelming guests.

"You want them to have a spot where [they know] good things are going to happen," Grossman explains. Make that positive association by giving him treats or praise while he's sitting in their spot. Encourage your guests to approach your dog if they want to say hi, rather than waiting for the dog to greet them.

Distract them from the doorbell

If your dog is the type to go nuts when guests come to the door, barking at the bell and jumping up on them when they enter, Grossman has a tip for diverting their attention using the Treat & Train, a remote-control operated treat dispenser that works at a distance of 50 feet. Set it up far from the door, and as your guests arrive, trigger the remote control to release a treat. Although it's a bit pricey, "it's a great way to keep a dog in one spot without having to tend to them constantly," she explains.

Show your dog you're thankful for him

"We have a tendency to focus on what we don't like instead of communicating to the dog all the things we do like," says Grossman. A dog clicker is an easy positive-reinforcement tool. When your dog obeys, you press the button on the plastic device and it makes a clicking sound, which you then follow with a treat or praise to create a positive association.

During Thanksgiving, Grossman suggests using the same tactic but with your iPhone camera. The snap of the camera as you take a picture, followed by a treat or praise, will convey that same message of "I like that you did that." And as a bonus, you'll have a set of photos capturing the moments you're thankful for your very good doggo.

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NFL power rankings | by Luke Miller

No. 1

Eagles
9-1 (W vs. DAL)

Perhaps the Eagles, down a Pro Bowl left tackle, middle linebacker, and running back, were tired of hearing about the Cowboys injuries. In the second half Sunday, they outscored Dallas, 30-0, convert three of four two-point conversion attempts, and run the Cowboys out of their own building.

No. 2

Patriots
8-2 (W vs. OAK)

You may have heard that Bills rookie Nathan Peterman threw five interceptions in the first half Sunday. Tom Brady has thrown four interceptions himself. Over the past two seasons. Bill Belichick can remain salty about having to play in Mexico, but it did nothing to stop the Patriots, who are winning wherever they take the field.

No. 3

Vikings
8-2 (W vs. LAR)

It's hard to imagine a more complete performance than the one delivered by the Vikings Sunday. They had 280 passing yards, 171 rushing, limited the NFL's leading offense to 254 yards and Todd Gurley to 56, and dominated the fourth quarter. They allowed no sacks and turned the ball over, you guessed it, zero times.

No. 4

Saints
8-2 (W vs. WAS)

The Saints took a week off from their normal dominating victories to deliver a comeback against Washington. Drew Brees had as much to do with this victory as the running backs, coming up with 375 passing yards, two touchdowns, and clutch plays before Mark Ingram bowled over D.C. in OT.

No. 5

Steelers
8-2 (W vs. TEN)

The Steelers offense had its most explosive game of the 2017 season Thursday night. Ben Roethlisberger had his first game with more than two touchdown passes, tossing four, and missed a 300-yard game by one yard. If Big Ben and the offense is finally getting on track, the rest of the league should bare notice.

No. 6

Panthers
7-3 (BYE)

The Panthers return from their bye week to face the Jets, and they may get Greg Olsen. Their veteran tight end has returned to practice for the first time since injuring his foot in Week 2. The last time the Panthers and Jets met, in 2013, Olsen led all receivers with 88 yards in a 30-20 Carolina victory.

No. 7

Rams
7-3 (L vs. MIN)

The Falcons gave the Rams a reprieve in their division by beating Seattle, but if the Rams struggle against the Saints this week, questions will have to be asked about a team with victories over the Colts, 49ers, Cowboys, Jaguars, Cardinals, Giants, and Texans but losses to Washington, Seattle, and Minnesota.

No. 8

Falcons
6-4 (W vs. SEA)

With wins over Detroit in September and Seattle Monday night, Atlanta now sits in the driver's seat for the final wild card spot in the NFC. But they'll be driving down a bumpy road to the playoffs, with games left against Minnesota, Carolina, and two contests against the Saints.

No. 9

Jaguars
7-3 (W vs. CLE)

Between a bye week, suspension, and unproductive outing a week ago, it had been over a month since Leonard Fournette had a 100-yard game. Sunday the Jags looked like themselves: 28 carries and 111 yards for Fournette, and a defense allowing just 134 passing yards.

No. 10

Lions
6-4 (W vs. CHI)

The Lions had enough firepower to dispatch the Bears behind a 299-yard, two-touchdown performance from Matt Stafford despite spotting their opponents an early lead. They can't afford to do the same this Thursday in a huge Thanksgiving matchup with the Vikings.

Best of the rest

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17 — Cowboys (5-5)
18 — Buccaneers (4-6)
19 — Jets (4-6)
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Is it time for 76ers' big man Embiid to stop shooting 3s?

Joel Embiid continues to battle health issues, as he nurses a sore knee. GETTY IMAGES

One of the seeming prerequisites for being a successful big man in today's NBA is the ability to hit shots from long distance, and Sixers' 7-foot-3 star center Joel Embiid is no exception.

Well, he was no exception. Now he might be.

After shooting a respectable (for a seven-footer) 37 percent during his rookie year, Embiid's three-point shooting percentage is hovering around 26 percent this season. Monday night Embiid attempted three threes and made none. More and more it appears he is passing up open looks from beyond the arc, but it's a tool he'll need to have back in workable form if he wants to continue to redefine the way a center plays in the NBA.

"The whole game I felt kind of kind of flat," Embiid, who was a gametime decision with a sore knee, said. "I wasn't having fun I was just going through the motions."

That was, of course, until Embiid drew a technical foul from Donovon Mitchell and heard screams of "MVP" from the Sixers faithful.

That doesn't mean Embiid — who still posted a double-double — can't still get three the hard way, as he did in the second quarter to expand Philly lead over Utah en route to a 107-86 win to lift them to 9-7 on the year.

Embiid has made multiple threes in a game just twice this year, last week against the Lakers and back in October in Dallas.

Is it time for Embiid to leave the threes to Robert Covington (49 percent) and Jerryd Bayless (42 percent) who are drilling them at a breakneck pace?

By simply looking at numbers, shooting 33.3 percent on three pointers just as good as shooting 50 percent on two-pointers, each yielding one point per possession. Thanks to a ferocious first half the Sixers shot 36 percent from downtown at home against Golden State Saturday, but in two games prior show under 22 percent from long range.

"It just means we have to do something to adjust," Covington said. "Even though we didn't hit in the first half we made big shots in the second half. That's why you play 48 minutes, you play an entire game."

Monday night the Sixers were 0 for their first 9 before J.J. Redick drilled an open three midway through the third quarter. In the game they made only five of 15 overall.

"That's not us," Sixers head coach Brett Brown said. "We really have some elite three-point shooters and not just one or two, as a team we are amongst the league's best."

Still, Covington and company have kept Philly's three-point make percentage in the top 10 of all NBA teams. where the guys are."

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5 Things Philly sports fans should be thankful for

It's an amazing time to be a sports fan in this city.

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It really, truly seems like the best time (in decades) to be a Philadelphia sports fan. As Philly sports lovers across the Delaware Valley, South Jersey and all over the country sit down to enjoy their Thanksgiving dinner, they selfishly have just a little bit extra to be thankful this year.

Here's our list of the 5 things we are most thankful for:

1 Howie Roseman, Eagles GM

The Eagles are 9-1 and the architect is Roseman. Not even considering he was the one who made all the moves to trade up for Carson Wentz, he used picks traded for Sam Bradford to draft Derek Barnett and trade for Jay Ajayi. He swapped second rounders to get Timmy Jernigan and later tied him down with an extension. And he signed weapons for Wentz in LeGarrette Blount, Alshon Jeffery and Corey Clement (an undrafted free agent). Thank you Howie, for making this holiday season extra special.

2 Doug Pederson, Eagles coach

By the same line of thinking, Pederson also deserves our thanks. From a middling second choice and "unqualified" to the coach of the NFL's best team, Pederson has shown a creativity, adaptability and leadership skills that could take this city to the promised land. He is keeping many mouths happy with just one football for feeding and has made Eagles fans happy.

3 Joel Embiid, Sixers C

We thought about going with Sam Hinkie here, but Hinkies influence doesn't stretch to Embiid's twitter feed. The 7-foot-3 monster had one of the best individual performances for a Philadelphia team since Wilt Chamberlain went for 100 points in his 46 point, 15 rebound, seven assist, seven block game in Los Angeles and has been a master troll, drawing media coverage and technical foul calls left and right. He has the Sixers destined to a playoff berth and himself heading to All-Star Weekend.

4 Ben Simmons, Sixers PG

Simmons could be another All-Star and is running away with rookie of the year honors early this season. He is a double-double machine and has also posted two triple doubles quicker than anyone ever in NBA history. When he touches the ball the Sixers score at a breakneck pace and his 6-foot-10 frame is creating nightmares for opposing defenses.

One can't help but be thankful for this Sixers' dynamic duo. GETTY IMAGES

5 Phillies, Flyers top prospects

Sure, Wentz deserves to be mentioned here — and he is a big part of Philly's joy at this time. But the other two teams, the Phillies and Flyers, are offering up hope and promise as well. Though only at the .500 mark the Flyers are showing nearly every night on the ice that youngsters Shayne Gostisbehere, Ivan Provorov and others will one day very soon take the reigns and lead. On the baseball field, new manager Gabe Kapler will be leading a young offensive core with sky-high potential in J.P. Crawford, Nick Williams, Rhys Hoskins and a host of others. The present and future are both bright down at the sports complex this holiday season.

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metro.us/games

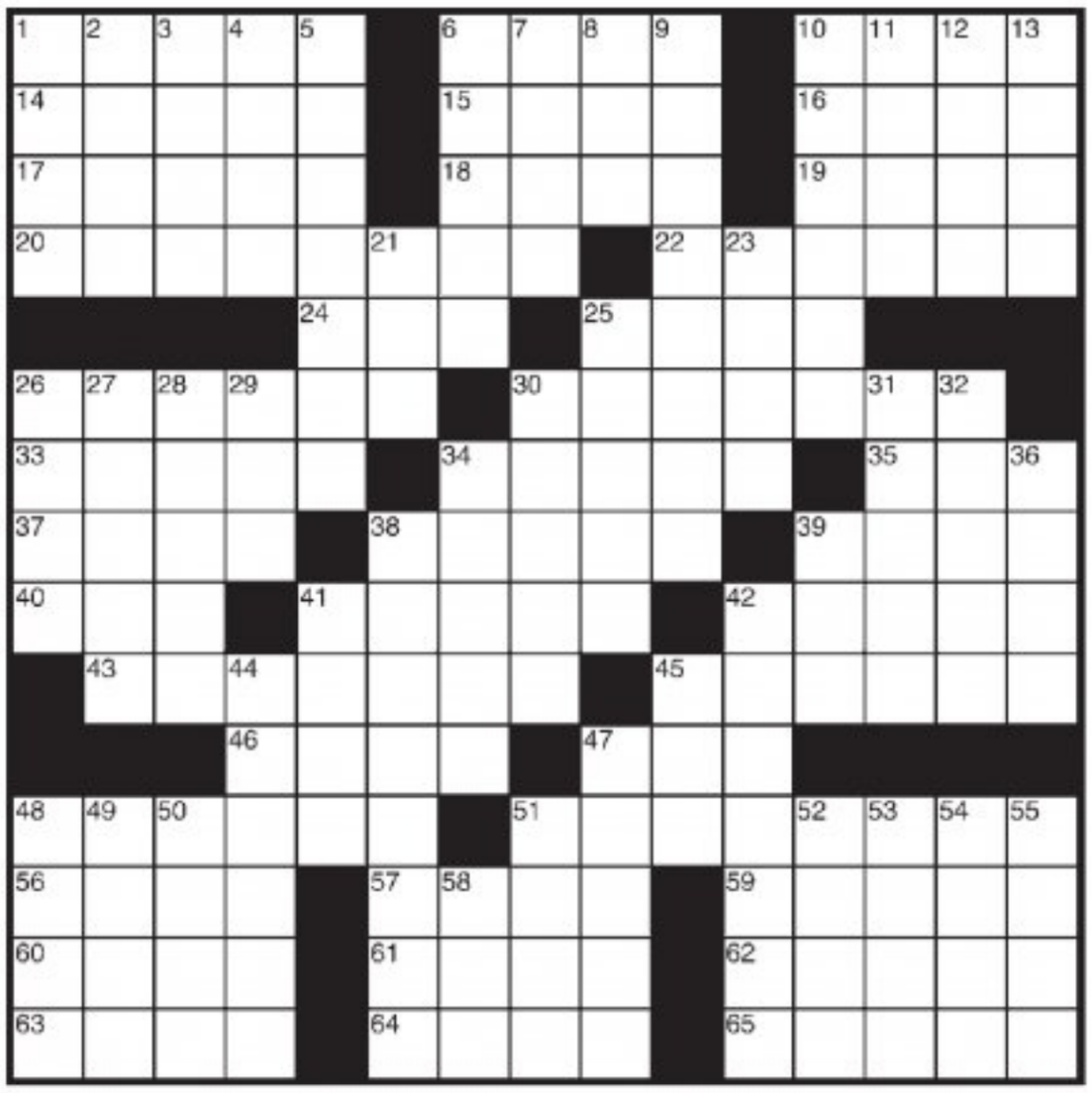
Across

1 Kingdom
6 Slumps
10 Metallic element
14 Leave-taking
15 Toss
16 Bloodhound's clue
17 Green gemstones
18 To be, to Henri
19 Lady of Spain
20 Texas town
22 Final words (var.)
24 – -de-sac
25 Gumbo veggie
26 Item to dunk (2 wds.)
30 Took to the cleaners
33 Drive forward
34 Foamy
35 Ring thing
37 Dreadful
38 Unusual sighting
39 Data amount
40 Bulldogs backer
41 More confident
42 Scruffs
43 Passed by
45 Not pro
46 Deep tracks
47 Portly
48 Work too hard
51 Credulous (hyph.)
56 Legend
57 Middle Ages quaff
59 BYU site
60 Pandora's boxful
61 Sea eagle
62 Buenos –, Argentina
63 Straphanger's lack
64 Get dizzy
65 Steel plow inventor

Down

1 Indian potentate
2 Mild Dutch cheese
3 Verdi masterpiece
4 Lascivious look
5 Broadway production
6 Sleeveless blouse
7 Traffic clogger
8 Canine warning
9 Glossiest
10 Gemini's locale
11 Adored one
12 Forbidden thing (hyph.)
13 Rocky ledge
21 Clumsy person
23 Zebras, to lions
25 Senior
26 Driftwood bringer
27 Rousseau novel
28 Showery time
29 Flower visitor
30 Showed vexation
31 Pyramid site
32 Discourage
34 Blisters
36 Phoenix neighbor
38 Buyer
39 Make illegal
41 Tater
42 Journalist's need
44 Detain
45 Boor
47 Cuban premier
48 Redding of R&B
49 Glen or dale
50 Ms. Fitzgerald
51 Diminish
52 Great Lake
53 Time long past
54 Happily – after
55 Rx amount
58 Previously

metro.us/crossword



metro.us/sudoku

easy

8	6			3				
	2				1	9		
							2	1
	1	9	3		7			8
	8	7				5	3	
3			4		2	7	1	
7	3							
		5	1				9	
				6			5	4

hard

	9		1					4
		1		2	4	9		7
2	3		8					
		3						2
	4		5		2		9	
1						5		
					3		5	1
4		7	2	5		8		
3					9		4	

metro.us/horoscopes

Aries Force may be your first response, but it isn't likely to get you very far. If you use your intelligence, there's a decent chance that you'll get your way.

Taurus Stay on track if you want to reach your goal. Refuse to let anyone upset you or disrupt your plans. Be kind to yourself and take time to rejuvenate.

Gemini If you get along with your peers, you'll get the help you require to take care of business. A positive change will result in a partnership with someone you respect.

Cancer A change in the way you take care of your health should include proper eating habits and physical fitness. Feeling better about your appearance will improve your attitude.

Leo Don't let the changes going on around you lead to a costly mistake. Change can be good, but don't act out of spite or emotional impulse. Intelligence will lead to victory.

Virgo Present what you've been working on or toward. The comments you receive should be considered. An unexpected turn of events will direct you into unknown territory.

Libra Problems will mount at home if someone isn't pulling his or her weight. Use your intelligence and provide incentives to help you get the extra help you need.

Scorpio Keep your end goal in sight. Don't be distracted by someone trying to interfere in your life and progress. Follow your heart, beliefs and vision.

Sagittarius Be careful how you handle powerful people who could influence your future. Someone will test your patience by pressuring or bullying you into doing demeaning jobs.

Capricorn Funnel your emotions into something important. You can bring about positive change to your status if you are open and about your motives and long-term plans.

Aquarius Listen and gather information. Knowing what you are up against will help you get what you want. Make negotiating on your own behalf priorities.

Pisces Get involved in ventures that will benefit you and those in your community or peer group. Joint efforts will bring good results and boost your reputation. EUGENIA LAST

Yesterday's answers

W	I	S	P	■	G	A	S	■	B	E	C	O	M	E
O	N	U	S	■	E	V	E	■	U	N	R	E	A	D
R	E	S	T	A	R	E	A	■	S	T	E	R	N	S
M	P	H	■	S	E	R	R	A	T	E	D	■	■	■
S	T	I	C	K	■	T	E	N	■	R	I	C	H	E
■	■	■	L	A	C	■	D	O	T	■	T	H	E	Y
■	L	O	A	N	E	R	■	D	A	S	■	A	X	E
R	E	C	Y	C	L	E	■	E	R	U	P	T	E	D
A	A	H	■	E	L	M	■	S	T	R	E	S	S	■
P	R	O	F	■	S	O	B	■	S	R	O	■	■	■
S	N	A	I	L	■	R	A	N	■	E	N	D	E	D
■	■	■	A	U	D	A	C	I	T	Y	■	A	L	I
F	R	E	S	N	O	■	A	P	O	S	T	L	E	S
R	A	S	C	A	L	■	L	P	N	■	S	A	C	K
I	M	P	O	R	T	■	L	Y	E	■	K	I	T	S

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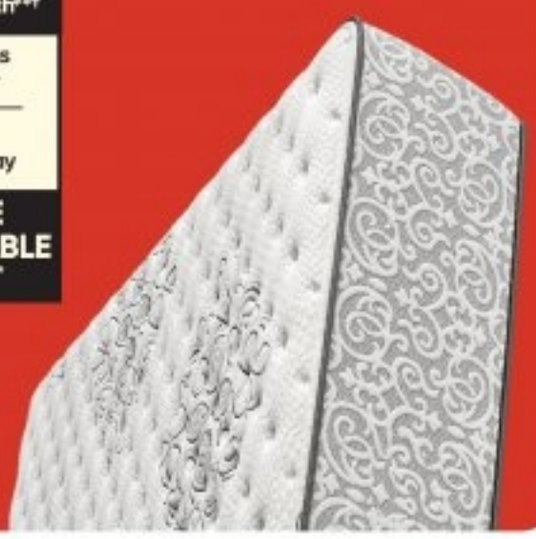

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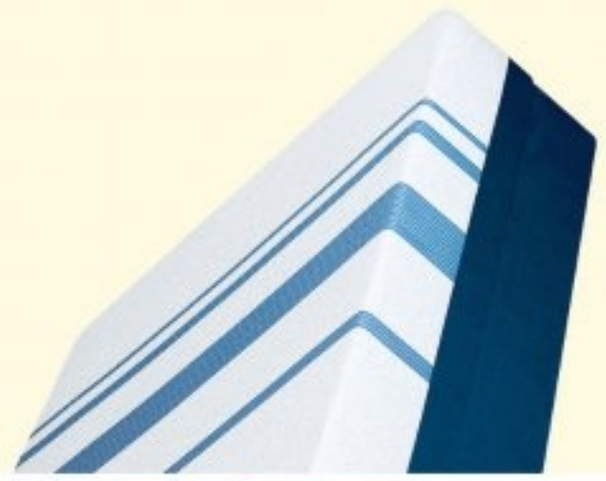

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